

Remarks

Accompanying the Notice of Allowance dated December 23, 2004, are Reasons for Allowance prepared by the Examiner.

The Applicant has reviewed the Reasons for Allowance and, with all due respect, objects to them.

The Examiner recites limitations found in different claims at different points through the Reasons for Allowance and then at the end asserts that "these limitations are recited in claims 1-29..."

With all due respect to the Examiner, that is not correct. For example, at one point in the Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner notes that "the impulse cancellation line is coupled between the optical splitter and the second photodiode." That limitation cannot be found in claim 1, but rather seems to come from claim 5.

Since claim 1 is an independent claim, it is believed that the Examiner considered it on its own merits and did not factor in limitations from subclaims when deciding to allow that claim. Indeed, it is believed that the Examiner allowed claim 1 based upon the limitations set forth in claim 1 and not in any other claim, be it claim 5 or claim 16, which is an independent method claim, or any other claim.

Also among the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are steps that seem to be quoted from claim 16. It is believed that those method steps did not factor in to the Examiner's analysis for allowing either independent claim 1 or independent claim 7, for that matter. In a similar vein, it is believed that the Examiner's rationale for allowing independent claim 16 was based upon the steps recited therein, and not the subject matter found in any of the other claims.

Since this application contains multiple independent claims, namely claims 1, 7, 16 and 23, and since each of those claims has at least a somewhat different scope compared to

the other independent claims, it is assumed that the Examiner has slightly different reasons for allowing each of these independent claims.

In order to make the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance of the claims clear, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue new Reasons for Allowance treating each independent claim separately. By mixing all of the Reasons for Allowance together, and then trying to wrap them up as applying to claims 1-29 may be a convenient, and shorthand technique for preparing Reasons for Allowance, but the Applicant believes that this practice just tends to confuse the situation and does not make clear exactly why the Examiner allowed each independent claim pending in this application.

As such, the Applicant requests that new Reasons for Allowance be issued, treating each independent claim in this application in a separate paragraph with the Examiner quoting the exact language from each claim which lead the Examiner to allow the claim in question.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents,

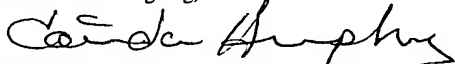
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

March 22, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

Corinda Humphrey

(Name of Person Signing)

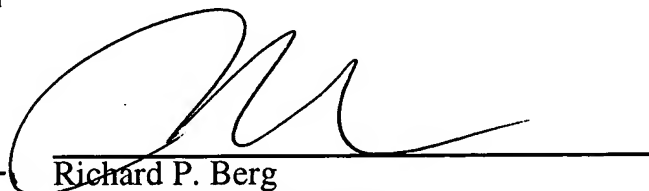


(Signature)

March 22, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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